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NORHAM & ISLANDSHIRES
RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1967

NORHAM AND ISLANDSHIRES RURAL DISTRICT

A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH1967To the Chairman and Members of the Norham & Islandshires Rural District Council

The report for the year 1967 includes the period covered by my predecessor who left to take up a position in general practice and subsequently by myself when I took up my appointment on 1st July. The initial period has been one of getting to know first people and places and secondly detail. This latter is inevitably a slow and continuing process particularly in an extensive area with a scattered population.

The report is presented in its accustomed form and contains information on the vital statistics for the District and also on the sanitary circumstances which are included in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

Vital Statistics. The number of births, 42, was almost the same as in 1966. The crude birth rate was 11.0 per thousand population and the adjusted rate was 13.9 per thousand, the area comparability factor for births being 1.26. These rates compare with ones of 17.2 for England and Wales in 1967, and of 11.4 and 14.4 respectively in the District in 1966. The rate therefore remains considerably below the national figure.

Total deaths numbered 37 compared with 48 in 1966. The crude death rate was 9.7 per thousand population and the adjusted rate 8.9 per thousand, the area comparability factor for deaths being 0.92. These rates compare with rates of 11.2 in England and Wales in 1967 and of 12.5 and 11.5 respectively in the District in 1966. The causes of death showed no abnormal distribution and were proportionally very similar to 1966. The main causes were heart and vascular disease and malignant conditions.

There was one infant death, the same number as in 1966, but taken in conjunction with the fewer number of births this resulted in a slightly higher infant mortality rate. The rate for the year, 24 per thousand total live births compared with live rate for England and Wales of 18.3 per thousand. There were no maternal deaths.

Infectious Diseases. There was no significant incident during the year. Seventeen cases of measles were notified during the tail end of the normal biennial outbreak. One case of pulmonary tuberculosis was notified post mortem having occurred in a man aged 68 years.

A mild case of food poisoning due to *Salmonella typhimurium* was diagnosed retrospectively in a girl of 13 years. The infection was present on a farm where two calves died of scouring and had been shown by the animal health laboratory to have suffered from the same infection. Specimens from six other contacts were found to be negative and the girl only excreted the organism for a brief period of under two months.

Immunisation. The statistics are shown in a modified form this year and also by disease immunised against instead of by form of injection. The number of immunisations carried out in young children have been related to the number of births in the area during 1967. The percentages shown are therefore not an exact immunity index but are a reasonable indication of the acceptance rates and can be considered to be very satisfactory.

Sanitary Circumstances. Mr. Halley reports on the sanitary circumstances of the area and these call for little comment.

Sampling and testing of milk for *Brucella Abortus* is important in a rural area although this part of the country is not as much affected as some others. Forty seven samples of raw milk were tested during the year, two cows were found to be infected and both were slaughtered. In both cases full co-operation was afforded by the farmers.

At the year's end no final decision had been made about sewage disposal at East Ord and action was deferred partly as a result of it being a period of national financial stringency. However, remedial action is very necessary and will need to be taken as soon as the economic position permits.

Ian G.P. Fraser

Medical Officer of Health

GENERAL STATISTICS

The area of the district was 47,011 acres.

The number of inhabited houses was 1,370 and the number of new houses completed during the year was 4.

The rateable value was £92,381 and the sum represented by a penny rate was £356.

The estimated mid-year population was 3,810 and this figure was taken when calculating the birth and death rate.

VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	19	23	42
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Totals	<u>19</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>42</u>
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population			11.0
Crude Birth Rate Multiplied by Comparability Factor			13.9
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births			-
<u>Still Births</u>			
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Totals	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total live and still births			-
Total live and still births			42
<u>Infant Deaths (deaths under one year)</u>			
Legitimate	-	1	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Totals	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Infant Mortality Rates</u>			
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births			24
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births			24
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births			-
<u>Neo-natal Mortality Rate</u>			
Deaths under four weeks per 1,000 total live births			24
<u>Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate</u>			
Deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births			24
<u>Perinatal Mortality Rate</u>			
Stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and still births			24
<u>Maternal Mortality (including abortion)</u>			
Number of deaths			-
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births			-

<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
	18	19	37
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the population			9.7
Crude Death Rate multiplied by Comparability Factor			8.9

CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	-	-	-
Tuberculosis (Other)	-	-	-
Syphilitic Disease	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	1	-	1
" " Lung, Bronchus	1	1	2
" " Breast	-	-	-
" " Uterus	-	-	-
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	1	1	2
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	-	-	-
Diabetes	-	-	-
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	5	8	13
Coronary Disease, Angina	3	5	8
Hypertension with Heart Disease	-	1	1
Other Heart Disease	2	1	3
Other Circulatory Disease	3	-	3
Influenza	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-
Bronchitis	-	1	1
Other diseases of Respiratory System	1	-	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-	-
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	-	-	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	-	-
Hyperplasia of Prostate	-	-	-
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	-	-
Congenital Malformations	-	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	1	2
Motor Vehicle Accidents	-	-	-
All Other Accidents	-	-	-
Suicide	-	-	-
Homicide and Operations of War	-	-	-
Totals	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>37</u>

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Scarlet Fever	-
Whooping Cough	-
Diphtheria	-
Measles	17
Pneumonia	-
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	-
Enteric Fever	-
Erysipelas	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	-
Dysentery	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-
Smallpox	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-
Food Poisoning	1
Encephalitis	-

TUBERCULOSIS

There was one case of pulmonary tuberculosis in a man aged 68 years. The case was notified post mortum.

IMMUNISATIONNorth No. 1 Area

Disease	Primary Immunisations			Reinforcing Doses		
	Under 4	4-15	Total	Under 4	4-15	Total
Diphtheria	376	12	388	187	394	581
Whooping Cough	374	11	385	116	91	207
Tetanus	376	17	393	188	395	583
Polio	413	38	451	169	405	574

	Primary Vaccination			Revaccination		
	Under 5	5-15	Total	Under 5	5-15	Total
Smallpox	291	5	296	3	10	13

There were 400 live births in the area during 1967 and the number of primary immunisations of infants under 4 years of age (smallpox - under 5 years) have been expressed as percentages of this figure.

Diphtheria	-	94%
Whooping Cough	-	94%
Tetanus	-	94%
Polio	-	103%
Smallpox	-	73%

B.C.G. Vaccination against Tuberculosis

Berwick Borough	171
Belford R.D.	65
Glendale R.D.	59
Norham & Islandshires R.D.	-
Total	<u>295</u>

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

1967

To the Chairman and Members of the Norham & Islandshires Rural District
Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to present this report on the work of my department for the year 1967. As from 1st September 1967 the reciprocal staffing arrangement with Berwick upon Tweed M.B. ended when it was resolved by both Councils that public health duties be carried out jointly by myself and my assistant for the two authorities. The arrangement is settling down and appears to be satisfactory. I take this opportunity of recording my thanks to Members of the Council, to staff and colleagues for their helpful co-operation during the year under review.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

D.S. Halley

Chief Public Health Inspector

WATER SUPPLIES

The supply of mains water continued to be the responsibility of the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company. No complaints of inadequacy of supply or the quality of the water were received. The quality was checked regularly by the Company's Chief Chemist and I am indebted to him for the information shown in the table below.

Bacteriological Examination Results

<u>Source</u>	<u>No. of Samples</u>	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Suspicious</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Berwick Bulk Supply	12	12	-	-	-
Middleton Hall Bulk Supply	12	11	-	-	1*
Holy Island Borehole	10	10	-	-	-
Kyloe Borehole	16	15	-	-	1*
Private Borehole (Ancroft)	12	12	-	-	-

* Check samples found to be excellent, in addition samples taken from each of the above sources for chemical examination were found to be satisfactory. At each source the water is chlorinated as a precaution against contamination and there are no indications that the waters are plumbo-solvent. Three samples of a private spring supply of water was taken by the department. The final sample was entirely satisfactory but the previous ones suggested intermittent contamination. As a precaution sterilization was advocated.

Table showing supply of water from public mains to domestic premises

Parish	Direct to house		By standpipe	
	No. of houses	Estimated Population	No. of houses	Population
Ancroft	168	437	-	-
Cornhill	108	281	-	-
Duddo	6	16	-	-
Holy Island	108	281	2	2
Horncliffe	113	294	-	-
Kyloe	79	205	-	-
Norham	215	559	-	-
Ord	100	260	-	-
Shoreswood	51	133	-	-

	Total	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Chemical	-	-	-
Bacteriological	49	47	2

A total of eleven samples of effluent were procured by the Northumbrian River Authority from the Sewerage Disposal Works at Scremerston, Cornhill and Donaldson's Lodge. With one exception all were satisfactory.

Extensions to sewerage systems were made at Norham, Fenwick, Scremerston and East Ord. In connection with the sewerage disposal plant at East Ord, final details for extended aeration were submitted to the Ministry for approval. On the suggestion of the Northumbrian River Authority consideration was being given to introducing a filter plant at the disposal works at Fenwick.

Twenty three complaints were received regarding rodent infestation and the table below which is a summary of the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food report gives an indication of infestation in the area.

Four sewerage systems were test baited and at the only one at which 'takes' were recorded poisoning of 15 manholes was carried out.

Properties other than Sewers	Type of Property	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
1. Number of properties in district	1,794	143
2. (a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	22	3
(b) Total number of properties infested by (1) Rats	22	3
(11) Mice	1	Nil
3. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	35	84
(b) Number infested by (1) Rats	-	-
(11) Mice	-	-

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

There were 16 factories on the register at the close of the year, eight inspections having been made under this Act during 1967.

HOUSING

Number of new houses completed during 1967:-

(a) By the District Council	Nil
(b) By private persons	4

STATISTICS FOR 1967

Total number of inhabited houses in district	1,370
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Total number of houses owned by Local Authority	314
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CLOSING AND DEMOLITION

1. Houses demolished in Clearance Areas	Nil
2. Houses demolished not in Clearance Areas	Nil
3. Houses closed not demolished	Nil
4. Other houses permanently discontinued as dwellings	13

REPAIRS

Houses made fit by informal action	Nil
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CLEARANCE PROGRAMME

Number of unfit houses in Clearance Programme remaining to be dealt with at end of year (estimate)	6
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PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

Number of privy closets in District Council area at end of year	25
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IMPROVEMENT GRANTS(1) Discretionary

(a) Applications submitted to Local Authority during	8
(b) Applications rejected	-
(c) Applications approved	8
(d) Approximate average grant approved per house	£361
(e) Total number of houses approved for grant since inception of scheme	297

(2) Standard

	<u>During the</u> <u>year</u>	<u>Total to</u> <u>date</u>
(a) Number of separate houses for which grants have been made	2	24

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

In total, twelve visits were made to the two licensed caravan sites in the district. Certain contraventions of licence conditions were brought to the notice of the site operators.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

To the one licensed slaughterhouse in the district, 95 visits were made to inspect meat and a further three inspections made with the Ministry District Veterinary Inspector under the Cruelty and Hygiene Regulations. Conditions were found to be most satisfactory and the following animals were inspected during the year.

Bullocks/Heifers

138

Sheep/Lambs

184

There were 5 slaughtermen licenced during 1967

MEAT AND OTHER FOOD STUFFS CONDEMNED

Ox livers	1 cwt. 64 lbs.
Tinned Ham	11 lbs.

Total weight of foodstuffs condemned 1 cwt. 75 lbs.

MILK SUPPLIES - Brucella Abortus

1. Number of samples of raw milk examined	47
2. Number of positive samples - Ring Test	8
- Culture	3

In one instance the milk supply was diverted for heat treatment and a dairy cow was slaughtered. In the other case the animal was slaughtered immediately the culture proved positive.

Two distributors of milk were registered during the year.

The following milk sample results were received for 1967:-

Designation	No. of Samples taken	Results			
		Methylene Blue Test		Phosphatase Test	
		Pass	Fail	Pass	Fail
Raw Milk	2	1	1	-	-
Pasteurised Milk	2	2	-	2	-

THE LIQUID EGG (PASTEURISATION) REGULATIONS, 1963

No samples were taken under these regulations during 1967

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1960

Food hygiene inspections to food premises numbered eleven and six informal notices were served. Pamphlets on food hygiene were distributed to traders.

The following table shows food premises subject to the Regulations grouped in trade categories and the position regarding hand washing facilities and facilities for washing food and equipment.

Trade Group	No. of Premises	Premises Complying with Reg. 16	No. of premises to which Reg. 19 applies	No. of premises complying with Reg. 19
Bakeries	1	1	1	1
Bakers shops	1	1	1	1
Butchers shops	1	1	1	1
Cafe/restaurants	8	8	8	8
Grocers shops	10	10	1	1
Hotels/Guest Houses	16	16	16	16
Hostel	1	1	1	1
Mead factory	1	1	1	1
Public Houses/licensed premises	8	8	8	8
School kitchens	5	5	5	5
Slaughterhouses	1	1	1	1
Totals	53	53	44	44

FOOD HYGIENE (MARKET STALLS & DELIVERY VEHICLES) REGULATIONS, 1966

Six informal notices were served when contraventions of these Regulations were noted during inspections.

ICE-CREAM

Number of premises manufacturing ice-cream

Nil

Sixteen samples of ice-cream were sent to the Public Health Laboratory for examination. Results showed 15 in Grade 1 and 1 in Grade 11

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963REGISTRATION, GENERAL INSPECTIONS AND PERSONS EMPLOYED

Class of Premises	Number of Premises Registered during the year	Total number of registered premises at end of year	No, of Registered premises receiving a general inspection during year	Persons Employed
Offices	-	3	1	11
Retail shops	-	6	5	15
Wholesale Shops, warehouses	-	-	-	-
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	-	9	3	18
Fuel storage depots	-	-	-	-
Totals	-	18	9	44
TOTAL MALES				14
TOTAL FEMALES				30

Number of visits of all kinds to registered premises 12

PETROLEUM (REGULATIONS) ACTS 1928 and 1936

Forty-three Petroleum Licences were issued, seven storage tanks were tested and thirty-four informal notices sent regarding contravention of licence conditions. Eighty-three inspections were made under the provisions of the Act.

SUMMARY OF NUMBER AND NATURE OF INSPECTIONS MADE DURING THE YEAR

Caravan Sites	12
Complaints and nuisances	35
Disinfection and disinfestation	1
Factories	12
Fire - Means of escape	2
Food Premises - Hygiene	11
Houses	11
Ice-Cream Premises	4
Infectious Diseases	3
Market Stalls and Delivery Vehicles	6
Milk Sampling	23
Offices and Shops	12
Rodent Control	53
Slaughterhouse - Meat Inspection etc.	98
Storage of Petroleum	83
Water Supplies	4

